

THE  
*William M. AWS*  
AMERICAN  
**MEDICAL RECORDER,**

OF  
ORIGINAL PAPERS AND INTELLIGENCE

IN  
***MEDICINE AND SURGERY.***

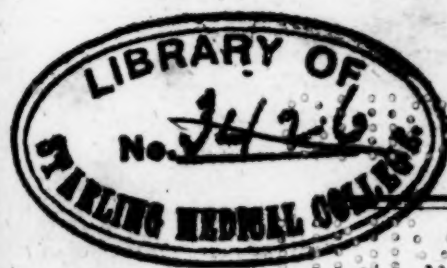
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CONDUCTED BY

JOHN EBERLE, M. D. Philadelphia.  
GRANVILLE SHARP PATTISON, Esq. Professor of Surgery  
in the University of Maryland.  
HENRY WILLIAM DUCACHET, M. D. New-York.  
JOHN REVERE, M. D. Baltimore.

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Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri.—HOR.



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*Eastern District of Pennsylvania, to wit :*

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the fourth day of January, in the forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America, A. D. 1821, James Webster, of the said District, hath deposited in this office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as proprietor, in the words following, to wit :

"The American Medical Recorder, of Original Papers and Intelligence in  
"Medicine and Surgery. Conducted by John Eberle, M. D. Philadelphia.  
"Granville Sharp Pattison, Esq. Professor of Surgery in the University of  
"Maryland. Henry William Ducachet, M. D. New-York. John Revere,  
"M. D. Baltimore. Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri.—Hor.  
"Vol. IV."

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled  
"An act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of maps,  
charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the  
times therein mentioned."—And also to the act, entitled 'An act supplement-  
ary to an act, entitled 'An act for the encouragement of learning, by se-  
curing the copies of maps, charts, and books, to the authors and proprietors  
of such copies, during the times therein mentioned,' and extending the bene-  
fits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving, and etching historical and  
other prints.'

D. CALDWELL,  
Clerk of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

STATE OF

PENNSYLVANIA

# PROSPECTUS.

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A new arrangement having been adopted in the editorial department of the American Medical Recorder, the Editors beg leave to exhibit to the Subscribers and the Medical public generally, the plan which they propose to follow in conducting that work in future.

The Journal will be divided into three parts, viz.

I. Original Communications.

II. Reviews.

III. Medical and Philosophical Intelligence.

The first division will be appropriated to communications on Medicine, and the collateral branches of Science; and, as it is intended to confine the work principally to subjects of practical importance, this department will always embrace a number of interesting and useful cases.

The second division will contain Critical and Analytical Reviews. The Critical Reviews will, as far as possible, be confined to American publications; they will be written in the spirit of liberality, but at the same time, with the most perfect independence.

The Analytical Reviews will contain the spirit and substance of foreign works; presenting, in a condensed form, the most valuable facts, and the particular doctrines which they set forth.—And as the publisher has made arrangements to obtain all the most respectable Journals from England, France, Italy and Germany, and to receive every new work in Medicine and Surgery immediately after its publication, the Editors hope to make this department of the Journal particularly useful and interesting.

The third department will embrace insulated medical facts, biographical notices of distinguished physicians, meteorological tables, and a variety of medical and philosophical intelligence.

Communications for the American Medical Recorder may be transmitted to Dr. DUCACHET, of New-York; to Dr. REVERE, of Baltimore; or to the Publisher, JAMES WEBSTER, Philadelphia.

N. B. Our Correspondents are requested to send their communications one month, at least, before the period for publishing the number for which they are intended. The months for publication are January, April, July, and October.

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#### CONDITIONS.

The American Medical Recorder is printed on fine paper, with a good type, and will be delivered to subscribers, in quarterly numbers, each containing upwards of 150 pages, with occasional engravings, illustrating interesting subjects, making one volume in a year.

The price to subscribers is five dollars annually.

No subscription will be received for less than a year. Gentlemen wishing to discontinue their subscriptions, must give notice to the publisher at least three months before the close of the year for which they subscribed, and pay up all arrearages.

*Philadelphia, August, 1820.*

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## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In our notices to Correspondents in the number for October last, we gave a summary of the principles upon which we intended to regulate our editorial conduct in the admission of communications. We thought that we had been sufficiently explicit. Several papers have, however, been sent to us, which we have been compelled to condemn. To spare much trouble to correspondents and ourselves, and to save no inconsiderable expense to the publisher, we beg leave to refer to our last number, with an assurance, that we never intend to deviate from the rules which we have there prescribed to ourselves. We would particularly recommend to notice, the remarks upon *common-place cases and long papers*:

We would further observe, that communications, the style of which is such as to unfit them for the public eye, can seldom be worth the trouble it would cost us to correct and prepare them for the press.

We have been offered a long article from a very respectable source on the epidemic which prevailed in this city during the last summer. But the subject of Yellow Fever has become threadbare, and as there was nothing very peculiar in this epidemic, we have thought that our pages could be more usefully filled. In fact, the feature in Yellow Fever which we think at present chiefly interesting, is whether it be contagious,—a subject which is pretty fully examined in the present number.

We expected to have had it in our power to lay before our readers a review of "*Hayden's Geological Essays*," which has lately been published in Baltimore; but it could not be obtained in time for the present number. It shall appear in our next number.

Several interesting analytical articles intended for this number, are, from want of room, postponed to the next.

Dr. Jennings's paper on the vapour bath shall appear in our next.

We have received a well written review of Dr. Hosack's "*Discourse on the Medical Police of the City of New York*." It shall appear in our April number.

Professors Cooper and Potter's papers were received too late for insertion in the present number, but shall appear in our next.

We have received a case and dissection, from Dr. Robert R. Barton of Winchester, Virginia, which shall have a place in our April number.

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## NOTE TO THE READER.

IN the last number of the Medical Repository, a card was addressed to the Editors of the Recorder respecting the review of the documents relating to the fever which prevailed in New-York in the summer and autumn of last year. It would not have been worth while to reply to this curious "*card*," were it not that it contains an allegation too serious to be overlooked. Much less would I have condescended to put my name to any notice of it, were it not that I furnished the obnoxious article, and ought, in justice, to bear any odium it may have brought upon the Editors.

We are accused of opening our pages to "*combined and studied misrepresentations, without even common regard to manners and persons.*" Without resting our justification, as I might, upon the numerous precedents which might be found in the journal conducted by the very person who subscribes that card, I flatly deny that the review referred to is the production of any *combination* whatever. I am familiarly acquainted with its author, and know it to have been written by him alone. As to any *studied misrepresentations* which it is said to contain, I appeal with confidence to the candour of the reader to determine if any book was ever more completely and satisfactorily refuted, than was the Report on the Bancker's street fever. As it respects the *disregard of common decency* with which we are charged, I must acknowledge that the review referred to was written with a severity which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been unpardonable. But in this case, severity was deserved—nay, it was indispensable. Nor could personalities have been avoided. It was impossible to expose the desperate designs which this report was intended to accomplish, without speaking of it in a tone of execration: nor was it possible to condemn the work without involving in the disgrace every man whose name was attached to it. I know that some of the committee who drew up the report, were unsuspectingly inveigled into this disgraceful combination. I should be sorry, therefore, to bring upon them the full measure of the indignation and reproach so justly merited by their crafty associates. Yet I cannot but think that even they deserve very severe treatment for lending their names, even in a mere official capacity, to a fabrication so pregnant with mischief to the cause of truth, and so calculated to injure the reputation of innocent individuals. I hope that the castigation they have received in consequence of this unfortunate alliance, will be a salutary lesson to them in future. "*Experientia docet stultos.*" I recommend to their perusal



the fable of the unfortunate cur which shared the fate of a surly mastiff for being in his company.

Having discharged my duty, as I conscientiously believe, in publishing the review which is so obnoxious; and having vindicated myself from all dishonourable design in so doing; I avow that I approve entirely the sentiments of the reviewer, and join him in the opinion, that in all the records of inconsistency and absurdity, there never was a more flagrant specimen of audaciousness, ignorance, and inconsistency, than the said report.

As for Dr. Pascalis's opinions, which he so pathetically complains have been distorted, I must be excused from deciding whe her justice has been done him or not, as I can neither understand them nor his defence of them in the "*card*."

As no Editor has a right to put a *veto* upon any article which has received the *imprimatur* of another, I desire that I may be considered as *alone* responsible for the review complained of, and for the sentiments contained in this notice.

HENRY W. DUCACHET.

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## PREFACE

### TO THE FOURTH VOLUME.

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It is not the least objectionable point in our profession, that the duties of a Medical Practitioner are incompatible with the habits of a scholar. The time of a physician is often interrupted by a variety of objects which demand his attention; he is frequently placed in situations where his person is exhausted with fatigue, and his feelings oppressed by his own disappointments and by witnessing the misfortune of others; without some strong excitement, his mental powers are apt to get into that dissipated state which is entirely incompatible with a long continued train of thought, or well directed literary exertion. We venture to assert, that there are few, even among the most industrious of our readers, who have not occasionally felt the truth of this remark; who, when they have examined the operations of their own mind, have not sometimes perceived, as they have become engaged in the business of their profession, their zeal in the cause of science to flag, and even their taste for the softer blandishments of literature to become obtuse. Men in this state of mind feel little inclination to engage in voluminous inquiries. It becomes an important desideratum, therefore, to devise some means by which the talents of persons in this

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state may be preserved, and by which they may be made to shake off that listlessness which at times weighs down the powers of the most vigorous intellect. There can be no doubt that the general diffusion of periodical publications is a most admirable contrivance for this purpose. By means of these, a correct knowledge of the improvements of the day is obtained, without any considerable effort, and we become powerfully excited by witnessing the exertions of our contemporaries, and friends. We know of no better means of reanimating that love of fame, which is the inseparable companion of learning, than the establishment of such a medium; through which, persons of liberal education, and extensive observation in the various branches of medical philosophy, may approach each other, and by comparing their various knowledge, and exhibiting their different powers, excite in others and keep alive in themselves, an honourable spirit of emulation. This attrition, while it tends to remove that rust, which insensibly accumulates around unpractised learning, and to elicit that sacred fire which would else lie for ever concealed, there is reason to hope, may be the means of imparting to the community sounder views on those subjects, in which the general diffusion of just opinions is so intimately connected with the public welfare.

We are conscious that it will be considered but a trite remark, that the vast improvements which have been made in modern times, in many of the arts and sciences, are mainly attributable to a careful attention to the principles of the inductive philosophy. There is no pursuit in which a rigid adherence to these rules is more imperiously necessary, than in medicine; yet it cannot be concealed, that physicians have shewn an

almost insuperable aversion to this slow, but sure, method of investigating truth. A fondness for indulging in hypothetical reasoning, rather than at first seeking to establish principles, is no doubt one of the principal causes why medicine has so notoriously lagged in the rear of the other arts and sciences. It is, we believe, chiefly owing to this natural vice of ingenious and erudite minds, rather than to any insurmountable difficulty in the thing itself, that the department of the profession which is more particularly cultivated in Europe by men of the most erudition, has made by far the slowest advances.

Within the last twenty or thirty years Surgery has advanced with rapid strides, but our pathological doctrines have made but little progress during that period. One of the happiest effects of periodical publications is, to curb this passion of speculation, and more effectually to confine men's powers to the investigation of those practical questions and ultimate truths, with which our profession abounds, and which may, at last, serve as data upon which some theory may be formed, which will satisfactorily explain the phenomena of animal life in health and disease.

Before a physician can enter upon the duties of his profession, with a reasonable hope of attaining any considerable rank in it, he is compelled to undergo a long, painful, and expensive, course of preparatory discipline. Even after he has entered upon the duties of his profession, a long time necessarily elapses before the emolument arising from it is more than adequate to his most urgent wants. This evil, which is felt every where, presses with a peculiar weight on the medical literature of our country. We are not yet, and the period is probably a remote one when we shall become so, a book-



making people. The large masses, into which the inhabitants of the different countries of Europe are congregated, afford great facilities for extensive observation in the various branches of medical science. Hospitals, and armies, and navies, are, after all, the schools of medicine in which its chief improvements are made. Our population is scattered over such an extent of territory, and our army and navy are so small, that these afford but few materials for writing books. These, together with our peculiar political situation, have induced a servile habit of looking to Europe, particularly to England, for our medical literature. The expence of importing books is very great, and as we have but few public medical libraries, the consequence is, that the members of the profession generally have only access to those few elementary works which the caprice of booksellers induces them to republish. This is unquestionably an evil of great magnitude, and one that must continue for a long time to depress the character of the profession. We know of nothing, but time, which will entirely obviate its ill effects.

There is only one method, that we are acquainted with, by which even an approximation to this can be made, and that is, by the extensive circulation of Periodical Journals. If these are conducted with industry and ability, they will unquestionably do much towards lessening this evil; they may undoubtedly be made powerful engines for eradicating erroneous doctrines, propagating important improvements, diffusing sound views, inducing a taste for study, and, generally speaking, for elevating the tone and standard of the profession. If the editor of such a publication be promptly and amply supplied with materials, and if he perform his

duty with honesty, and activity, and intelligence, it is plain, that, in a quarterly publication of two hundred pages, a vast amount of useful information may be communicated, and every important improvement made known. At this time, when, in Europe, book-making has become a trade, it often happens that all that is valuable in a volume of considerable size may be condensed in a few pages.

We are sensible that some plausible objections have been urged against this kind of publications. We know that it has been said, that reviews are often only *ex parte* expositions of the facts and opinions of the authors; that they are apt to encourage a habit of indolence; to induce persons to rest satisfied with the superficial information obtained by this sort of reading, instead of making more profound inquiries. But, in answer, it may be observed, that these objections lie with much more force against the other departments of learning than medicine. It is very certain that this art has by no means yet arrived at its highest possible degree of perfection. Inventions, and discoveries, and improvements, are constantly making in it, and it intimately concerns the happiness of mankind, that a knowledge of these improvements should be diffused through the profession, as rapidly as possible; which can only be effectually done through the medium of public journals. The first objection is neither uniformly nor necessarily true. It will be readily granted that a person may obtain a more full and clear understanding of a subject, by examining the author's explanation of his own discoveries, or doctrines, and the steps which have led to them, than from a concise account of them by another. But as an opportunity of do-

ing this falls to the lot of but few individuals, it is clearly better, that the members of the profession generally, should have a less profound knowledge of the subject, that they should be merely acquainted with results, than remain in entire ignorance. But we contend that it is not the tendency of periodical publications to induce the mind to rest satisfied with a superficial knowledge of books. On the contrary, to men of studious inclinations (and as it respects those of a different character, if they did not read journals they would probably read nothing) they serve as guides to direct their inquiries. They go before us and point out the places where the most interesting views, curious objects, and richest products, are to be found, and they warn us to avoid those barren regions which are only productive of ennui and disgust. Their effect is not to produce satiety, but rather to give a zest to inquiry. They may be considered as a bill of fare, where each guest may at once discover that which is best suited to his taste, and where the appetite is sharpened by a description of the splendid literary banquet to which he is invited.

There is another point of view in which this description of books is pre-eminently useful. It falls to the lot of few to have time, inclination, or materials, for writing a volume; but there is scarcely an individual who does not meet with facts which tend to develop the laws of the animal economy, and the effects of agents in controlling its morbid phenomena. Periodical publications, like the ancient temple of *Æsculapius*, serve as depositories in which these scattered fragments are collected and recorded.

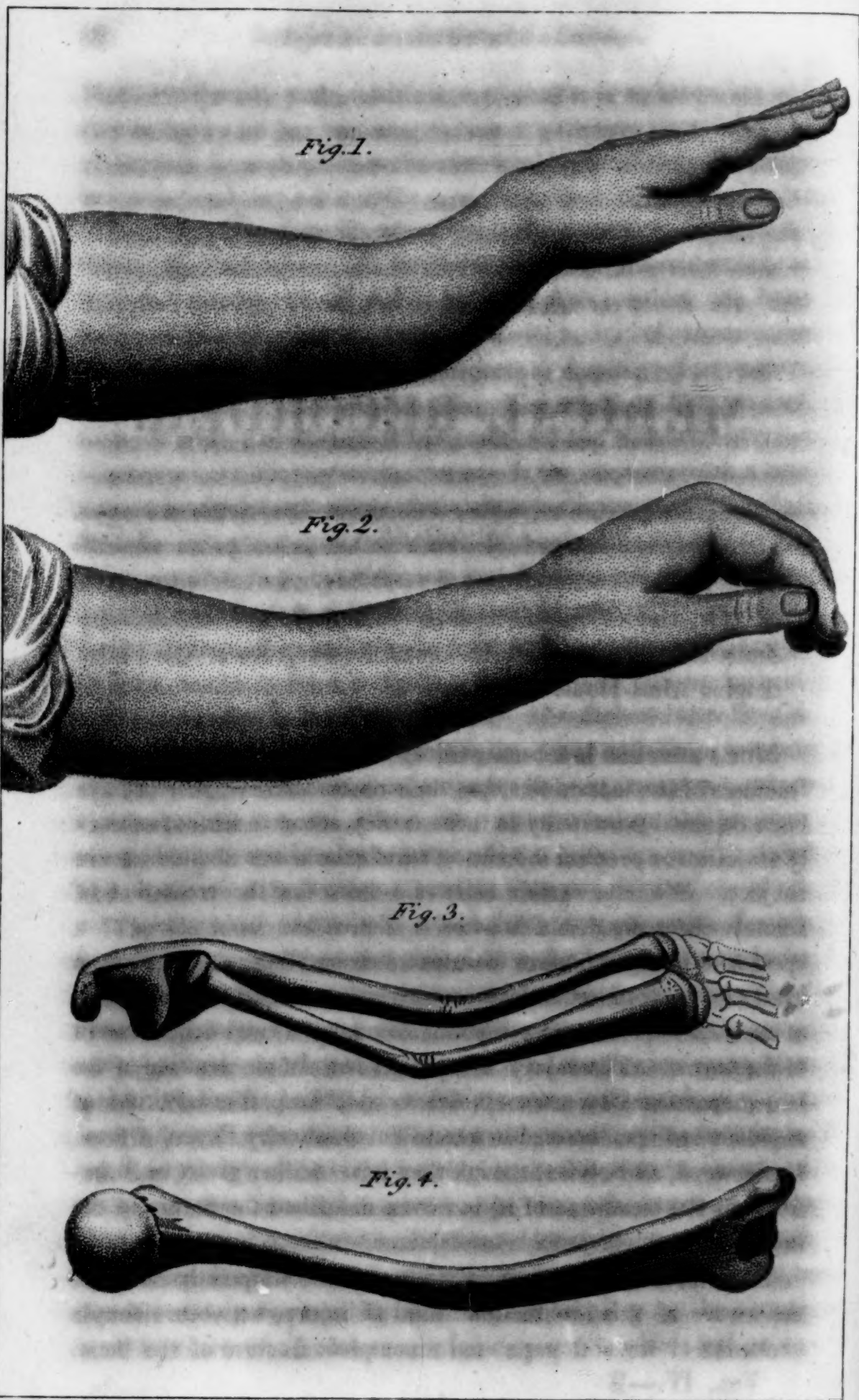
It has been happily observed, that "the chief art of learning is to attempt but little at a time. The widest



excursions of the mind are made by short flights, frequently repeated; the most lofty fabrics of science are formed by the continued accumulation of single propositions."

The editors of the *American Medical Recorder* are conscious that they are in a very responsible situation; and that they have undertaken a very difficult duty. There is but one motive, however, by which they have been actuated, and that is, a hope that their services may do something towards disseminating useful knowledge, and sustaining the medical literature of the country. The arrangements, announced in their prospectus, have not yet been carried into complete operation; but they have every reason to expect, that, for the future, there will be placed at their disposal the most ample materials for giving the earliest intelligence of every thing, interesting or useful, relating to medical science, both in Europe and America. They anticipate, with more confidence, the future usefulness of their journal, from the pledges which they have received of effectual support from gentlemen, whose attainments place them in the highest rank of their profession.

But they would avoid making promises. They are aware, after all, that their work is at the bar of the profession, and that it must stand or fall by its own merits. To this test they are willing to submit, and on this ground to rest their claims to public patronage.



*J.R. Barton Del.*

*C. Tiebout Sculp.*